theſe ſeed-veſſels are included in the ſeminal valves, the ſtraps are rolled round the placenta, in two oppoſite ſpiral directions, as is expreſſed at C, where they are beginning to unroll; at D, they are repreſented as farther diſengaged; at F, they are quite expanded; and at G, the elaſtic force of the filaments being quite exhauſted, they are at reſt. This unrolling of the ſtraps or filaments, however, is not gradual, as I have repreſented it, but performed in an inſtant, by a ſudden jerk; by which the ſeeds are thrown off with force, and committed to the air, where they float innumerable. *What is their uſe?* Certainly they are produced for other purpoſes beſides the propagation of the ſpecies; every perfect ſeed ſpike produces millions of theſe, and yet the plant is propogated by the root; nay, ſo rarely do the ſeeds anſwer the purpoſe of propogation, in this family, that I could never yet diſcover a ſeedling plant of any one of the ſpecies.

The ſame obſervation holds good, in reſpect to all the other Ferns, and to the Fungi; the multitude of ſeeds produced by an Agaric or a Boletus, is innumerable! is aſtoniſhing! yet not one of ten thouſand anſwers the purpoſe of propogation. Is not the Air we breathe charged with them all the declining part of the year? Do we not receive them into our Lungs with every breath we draw? Whence proceed the

Quinſies,